

Message Text

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TO USINFO IMMEDIATE

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FOR IOP/M

EO 11652: NA

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION -- FORD-SADAT MEETING

REF: 12095

1. CAIRO PRESS JUNE 2 PRESENTS WIDE COVERAGE OF SADAT-FORD "HISTORIC MEETING" IN SALZBURG. LEADING FRONTPAGE HEADLINES STRESS COMMON DESIRE TO ACHIEVE PEACE AND U.S. DESIRE TO AVOID STALEMATE IN ME. ALL PAPERS PUBLISHED FULL TEXT OF OFFICIAL DINNER SPEECHES BY PRESIDENTS FORD AND SADAT AND PRESS STATEMENTS BY SECRETARY KISSINGER, UNDERSECRETARY SISCO AND EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN, TASHSIN BASHIR.

2. AL AHRAM REPORTS THAT FORD-SADAT MEETING WAS PRECEDED BY STATEMENTS BY "TOP U.S. OFFICIAL, ALLEGED BY INFORMED POLITICAL CIRCLES, TO BE SECRETARY KISSINGER HIMSELF," THAT BOTH PRESIDENTS WILL DISCUSS ISRAEL'S FUTURE BORDERS, ESSENTIAL ARAB-ISRAELI PLEDGES FOR PEACE, PALESTINIAN PROBLEM AND JERUSALEM. AL AKHBAR DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTES SAME POINTS TO SECRETARY KISSINGER. ACCORDING TO AL AHRAM, OFFICIAL ADDED THAT APPROACH NEEDED FOR FUTURE PROGRESS WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED BECAUSE BOTH GENEVA CONFERENCE AND STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH HAVE 50 PERCENT CHANCE, "THOUGH CLIMATE SEEMS TO BE MORE IN FAVOR OF SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY." IN RELATION TO THIS POINT, AL AKHBAR QUOTES SECRETARY KISSINGER AS SAYING UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT, FOLLOWING U.S. ME POLICY REEVALUATION, "FORM OF

NEGOTIATIONS REQUIRED BY SITUATION WILL BE DETERMINED." IN SEPARATE ITEM, PAPER QUOTES EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL STATEMENT TO UPI THAT "GENEVA CONFERENCE MAY BE HELD LATE THIS YEAR" AND THAT "EGYPT DOES NOT WANT TO SEE CONFERENCE LIMITED TO ANGRY SPEECHES." MEANWHILE, AL GOMHOURIYA FRONTPAGES PREDICTIONS THAT, ACCORDING TO U.S. SOURCES, PRESIDENT FORD WILL PRESENT FULL PEACE PROPOSAL LATE THIS MONTH AND THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER WILL RESUME "ME MISSION" DURING JULY.

3. MEMBER OF EGYPTIAN PARLIAMENTARIAN GROUP WHO VISITED U.S. RECENTLY, LEILA TAKLA, CONTRIBUTES ARTICLES IN BOTH AL AHRAM AND AL AKHBAR ON OBSERVATIONS DURING U.S. TRIP AND U.S. RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AND ARABS. TAKLA'S ARTICLE IN AL AHRAM MAINTAINS THAT, IN EARLY STAGES OF ARAB-AMERICAN RELATIONS, U.S. WAS NOT WELL INFORMED OF ME REALITIES. VISITING EGYPTIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS, HOWEVER, FOUND GROWING UNDERSTANDING OF ME AND EGYPTIAN SITUATION NOT ONLY AMONG U.S. LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE POLICY MAKERS, BUT ALSO AMONG AVERAGE PEOPLE. BESIDES, SHE ADDS, "THERE WAS INCREASING NUMBER OF JOURNALISTS, UNIVERSITIY PROFESSORS, STUDENTS AND POLITICAL COMMENTATORS WHO TREAT ME WITH MORE OBJECTIVITY OR LESS PREJUDICE." TAKLA SAYS THAT SENATORS PERCY AND MCGOVERN AND REPRESENTATIVE WILSON "WERE BRAVE ENOUGH TO SPEAK PUBLICLY ABOUT ARAB RIGHTS TO RETRIEVE TERRITORY." FURTHERMORE, "EXECUTIVE BRANCH IS FULLY AWARE OF ARAB RIGHTS. IT SUPPORTS US BECAUSE IT REALIZES THAT U.S. HAS NATIONAL INTERESTS IN SETTLING ME PROBLEM AND ESTABLISHING GOOD RELATIONS WITH ARAB COUNTRIES AND THEIR PEOPLES." TAKLA PREDICTS THAT AID TO ISRAEL WOULD BE APPROVED YET, THERE WILL BE DIFFERENCES IN AMOUNT OF AID AS SECRETARY KISSINGER SAID OR IN NUMBER OF SUPPORTING VOTES AS ROCKEFELLER SAID. OR, U.S. SUPPORT MIGHT BE IN FORM OF "SUSPENDED AID" THAT PRESIDENT FORD FAVORS. TAKLA EXPRESSES VIEW THAT, BY EXERTING EXAGGERATED INFLUENCE, ZIONIST GROUPS WORK AGAINST THEIR OWN INTERESTS AND "UNINTENTIONALLY CAUSE AMERICAN-ARAB RAPPROCHEMENT." TAKLA FAVORS CONTINUING U.S. - ARAB CONTACTS BECAUSE "CONGRESS MEMBERS HAVE UNCLASSIFIED

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STATED THEY WERE IMPRESSED NOT ONLY BY ARAB SOLIDARITY, BUT ALSO BY NEW STYLE IN ARAB CONDUCT." SUCH CONTACTS, TAKLA BELIEVES, "ARE NATIONAL NECESSITY ON OUR PART."

4. TAKLA'S ARTICLE IN AL AKHBAR CITES 1) STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT FORD THAT "SETTLING ME PROBLEM IS IN U.S. NATIONAL INTERESTS," 2) SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VIEW THAT "ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL IS NECESSARY" AND 3) ROCKEFELLER'S REMARKS ON

ZIONIST PROPAGANDA PENETRATION IN U.S. ARTICLE CLASSIFIES CONGRESSMEN IN FOUR GROUPS: 1) FEW WHO ARE CONVINCED OF ARAB RIGHTS, 2) MANY WHO ARE ULTRA-ACTIVE SUPPORTERS OF ISRAEL, 3) THOSE WHO ARE UNINFORMED, AND 4) THOSE WHO ARE HESITANT. TAKLA MAINTAINS THAT LETTER BY 76 SENATORS TO PRESIDENT FORD WAS REACTION TO SEVERAL FACTORS INCLUDING 1) FEELING THERE IS ACTUAL CHANGE (IN PUBLIC OPINION) AGAINST ISRAEL, 2) PRESIDENT FORD'S INSISTENCE ON REEVALUATION OF ME SITUATION AND 3) HIS STEP TO EXCLUDE ISRAEL FROM FOREIGN AID LIST UNTIL EVALUATION IS COMPLETE. SPEAKING ON NECESSITY TO IMPROVE ARAB INFORMATION ACTIVITIES IN U.S., TAKLA NOTES THAT ZIONIST ORGANIZATIONS HAVE \$5 BILLION INFORMATION BUDGET.

5. EDITORIALLY, AL AHRAM REITERATED THAT SALZBURG TALKS WILL BE MAJOR TEST OF U.S. INTENTIONS AND FUTURE U.S. POSITION.

AL GOMHOURIYA EDITORIAL SAYS THAT AMERICA'S ANSWER TO SADAT'S QUESTION OF WHETHER U.S. IS PROTECTING ISRAEL WITHIN HER BORDERS OR WITHIN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES WILL DETERMINE SIZE OF ENEMY "SO THAT WE CAN PREPARE TO CONFRONT OUR FOE". AL AKHBAR SAYS THAT PRESIDENT FORD CAN TAKE A DECISIVE STEP WHICH SERVES STABILITY IN ME, WORLD PEACE AND U.S. INTERESTS BY RECOGNIZING NATIONAL RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

6. CAIRO RADIO PRESENTED THOROUGH COVERAGE OF MEETINGS AND CAIRO TV IS CARRYING SATELLITE-TRANSMITTED COVERAGE.

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